Jaisalmer), Khodal (district Barmer) and Phalodi (district Jodhpur) which are considered suitable for installation of wind power projects.

Inclusion of more people in category of Freedom fighters

†*32. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given its approval to include some more people in the category of freedom fighters in the month of January, 2005;

(b) if so, the role and contribution made by them in freedom struggle; and

(c) the total number of people included in the said list and the reasons for delay in their inclusion along with extra financial burden on the exchequer by the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No decision has been taken to include more people in the category of freedom fighters, *per se.* However, the Government has enhanced the number of beneficiaries of the Hyderabad Liberation Movement from the earlier estimate of about 11,000 made in 1985 to about 1 5,000 in January 2005, with the stipulation that only those who participated in the freedom struggle upto 15.9.1948, i.e. before the Police Action in Hyderabad, will be eligible.

(b) Border Camps had been established on the border of the then Nizam State to secure the merger of the Nizam State into the Union of India. The then Nizam had issued a general *Firman* for arrest of all those persons who were connected with the organization and activities of these Border Camps. The sufferings in the Border Camps for carrying out struggle for merger of the Hyderabad State with the Indian Union was approved in 1985, to be at par with the underground sufferings of the freedom fighters under the Swatantrata Sainik Sanmrnan Pension Scheme, 1980.

(c) The Government had in 1985 estimated that to cover all persons eligible for the pension about 11,000 pensions would need to be sanctioned in 98 Border Camps. Till date over 10,500 pension have been sanc-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

tioned and some balance eligible persons remain to be covered. Additionally the Government has now decided to recognize a further 18 Border Camps for coverage under the scheme. To cover all the eligible, persons in the additional 18 Border Camps as well as the remaining eligible people in the earlier 98 Border Camps, it is now estimated that the limit for sanctions needs to be enhanced to 15,000. The additional annual financial implication of the enhanced limit is estimated to be about Rs. 24 crores.

Nexus between officers of Indian Navy and Contractors

*33. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that senior officers of Indian Navy have been found involved in pocketing money from contractors who supply shoes, uniforms, suitcases etc.;

(b) if so, what is the number of officers found involved in those cases during the last three years and what action has been taken against them; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that suppliers who bribed the officers, referred to above are still doing business with the Armed Forces and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)Atotal of six officers were found to be involved. Of these, five officers have been tried by Courts Martial and punished. Case of one officer is under investigation.

(c) Cases of all categories of suppliers involved in giving bribes are under consideration for suitable action including black-listing, if necessary.

Impact of import of Cheap Soda Ash

*34. DR.A.K. PATEL:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that import of cheap soda ash from